

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at (612) 371.5265.

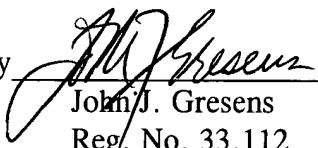
Respectfully submitted,

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By


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Reg. No. 33,112

MARKED UP COPY OF CLAIMS

3. Device according to claim 1[or 2], characterized by the fact that the porous body 2 is disk- or plug-shaped.

4. Device according to claim 1[or 2], characterized through the following features:

- 4.1 the porous body (2) is sleeve-shaped;
- 4.2 the porous body (2) can be installed in a purification vessel (1) such that it protrudes into the molten mass;
- 4.3 the porous body (2) connectable with its one end to the pressure source, while its other end is closed.

5. Device according to [one of the]claim[s] 1[through 4], characterized by the fact that the porous body (2) consists of porous material.

6. Device according to [one of the]claim[s] 1[through 4], characterized by the fact that the porous body (2) displays a lattice, mesh, grid, or grating structure.

7. Device according to [one of the]claim[s] 1[through 4], characterized by the fact that the porous body (2) consists of ceramic material.

9. Device according to [one of the]claim[s] 1[through 6], characterized by the fact that the porous body (2) consists of a metal.

11. Device according to claim 9[or 10], characterized by the fact that the porous body (2) can be electrically heated.

12. Arrangement for purifying molten glass;

- 12.1 with a purification vessel;
- 12.2 with a bubble dispenser for generating gas bubbles from an external pressurized-gas source as well as for introducing the gas bubbles into the molten mass;

12.3 the bubble dispenser comprising a porous body (2) according to [one of the] claim[s] 1 [through 11].

13. Device and method for purifying molten gas according to claim[s] 1[through 11], characterized by the fact that used as the bubbling gas is oxygen.

14. Device and method for purifying molten gas according to claim[s] 1[through 11], characterized by the fact that used as the bubbling gas is helium.